



PRODUCT CARE ASSOCIATION
12337 – 82A Avenue, Surrey, B.C. V3W 0L5
Phone: 604 592-2972 Fax: 604 592-2982
Web: www.productcare.org

2004 Summary Report

Paint, Flammable Liquids, Pesticide and Gasoline Stewardship Programs

This is the summary report for the year 2004 for the following industry stewardship programs administered by Product Care Association in British Columbia pursuant to the Recycling Regulation, (BC Reg. 449/2004):

- Paint category
- Solvent and flammable liquids category
- Pesticide category
- Gasoline category

A. About Product Care

Product Care is a national industry non profit product stewardship association. Product Care has over 100 “brand owner” members who belong to one or more product sectors. Product Care’s membership includes manufacturers, distributors, and retailers with head offices in Canada, the US and overseas. Members are audited regularly to ensure regulatory and program compliance.

Product Care’s board of directors is representative of its product sectors. Ten board members are elected by the coatings, pesticide, flammable liquids, petroleum products and retailer sectors. Board members are geographically located in Ontario, Alberta and B. C.

B. Paint/HSW Stewardship in Canada

Paint or paint and other household special waste (HSW) stewardship programs are now mandated in 3 provinces, with regulations on the horizon in several more.

British Columbia: Product Care has managed the paint stewardship program since regulations were introduced in 1994 and pesticides, flammable liquids and gasoline since 1997.

Nova Scotia: Product Care established a paint stewardship program in Nova Scotia in 2002. The program is delivered in partnership with RRFB Nova Scotia, the operator of the province wide Enviro-Depot system.

Quebec: Product Care maintains a strategic alliance with Eco-Peinture, the industry association which manages the Quebec paint program. Product Care

“Environmental stewards for coatings, flammables, pesticides and petroleum products”

and Eco Peinture are harmonizing their programs for the benefit of common members.

C. Program Funding:

Product Care's programs are funded by eco fees charged to the industry "brand owners" based on the volume of regulated products they sell in each province in which Product Care has a program. In many cases eco fees are recovered at the retail level as a visible "eco fee". Despite steadily increasing return rates, eco fees have never been raised, and have actually been reduced in certain categories (BC program aerosol fees were reduced by 75% in 1999 and BC flammable fees dropped a total of 75% from 2003 to 2005, and BC paint fees reduced an average of 15% in 2005.).

D. Consumer Information and Education

The specific communications and education initiatives undertaken during the Reporting Period included the following items.

RCBC Toll-Free Recycling Information Hotline: Product Care continued its contract with the Recycling Council of BC "recycling hotline" service. The RCBC Hotline is open during normal business hours, accessible to all BC residents by a toll free telephone number (1-800-667-4321). RCBC hotline operators provide consumers with a convenient "one stop" contact to obtain information about Product Care programs and any other recycling questions. Through the RCBC Hotline consumers can also find out where to take unneeded materials and also where to find needed materials through RCBC's materials exchange program. Product Care promotes the RCBC hotline number through its web page, on its signs, brochures, and other printed material. The RCBC hotline is also listed in the "yellow pages".

Printed Materials:

Retailer brochure distribution: Consumer program information brochures and point of purchase signage continued to be distributed to retailers, municipalities and other participants through a reorder system by telephone, fax, email or through the Product Care website.

Municipal mailouts: Product Care's consumer brochure was distributed by a number of participating municipalities with annual householder waste collection calendars.

Municipal calendars: Product Care advertises in the annual calendar published by many municipalities to inform residents about municipal services.

Web Site: The Product Care website was completely updated in 2004 with a new simplified home page with quick links to "what we accept" and "depot locations". The web site is maintained to provide the public with up-to-date depot and program information. Within the site is a searchable database of depots, including maps for most locations, an explanation of products accepted by the program, and a list of the eco fees charged. The web site also includes a report section that provides program information

and statistics as well as information for consumers on buying the right amount, storage and handling.

“The Circular” Newsletter: Product Care publishes a newsletter called the *Circular* to better inform members, retailers, NGO’s and the general public about program developments. The newsletter is also available for download on the Product Care web site.

Depot Newsletters: To keep depot operators informed about the Product Care program and able to serve their customers, Product Care publishes a depot newsletter.

E. Residuals Collected in 2004

Material	2004 (ELC’S)	2003 (ELC’S)	% change
Paint ¹	6,120,203	5,683,337	7.6 %
Paint Exchange	108,576	107,711	<1.0 %
Flammable Liquids	139,141	121,746	14.2 %
Pesticides	31,968	31,536	1.3 %
Metal Containers Recycled	602 tonnes	575 tonnes	4.6 %
Plastic Container Recycled	45 tonnes	43 tonnes	4.6 %

1. Paint volumes includes Paint Aerosols and Paint Exchange volumes
2. Flammable Liquids represents combined flammable liquids and gasoline collection volumes
3. “ELC” means equivalent litre container, and is a measure of original container capacity, not residual contents.

F. Product Care Collection Facilities

Product Care contracts with more than 100 depots across British Columbia, where consumers may return leftover paint. Consumers may also return leftover of flammables, gasoline, and pesticides at more than 40 of these depots. There is no charge to a consumer to return products to a depot. Depot locations are listed on Product Care’s website www.productcare.org. In addition, Product Care participated in 7 one-day collection events in 2004.

G. Management of Residuals Collected

During the Reporting Period, the paint and other residuals collected at Product Care depots throughout BC were received, sorted and bulked at its facility in Surrey, B.C. (except paint given away through the paint exchange program) prior to recycling or other disposal management options.

Summary of management options:

	method	Example	paint	flammables	pesticides	gasoline
1	reused	Given to a consumer in original condition through "paint exchange"	6.2 %	--	--	--
2	recycled	Reprocessed as paint, used in concrete manufacture and cement manufacture, re-distillation to recover solvents	56.1%	--	--	--
3	utilized for recovery of energy	Fuel blending	37.5%	100%	--	100%
4	disposal	Incineration due to contamination	0.2%	--	100%	--
5	landfill		--	--	--	--

References in this chart do not include the management of non program materials. The following is additional information on management options for collected materials.

Reuse - Paint Exchange program:

Reusable paint is given away free through the paint exchange program to the public and non-profit organizations to be used for its originally intended purpose. The Paint Exchange option is offered at most Product Care depots outside the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD). Within the GVRD, the paint exchange program is centralized at Product Care's facility in Surrey. As well as individuals, leftover paint is donated to a wide variety of community organizations, including church groups, community theatres and RCMP anti-graffiti programs.

Many participants obtain information about the Paint Exchange program through the RCBC materials exchange "MEX" program of Recycling Council of B.C. (RCBC). This program provides a central system to put people with leftover materials, such as paint, in touch with groups and individuals who can use them.

During 2004, 6.2% of the paint collected by Product Care was given to consumers for reuse through the paint exchange program.

Recycling

Leftover latex paint was used as a raw material in the manufacturing of specialty concrete and cement products. A portion of the oil-based paint collected was processed through a re-distillation system that recovered its components for use as raw material in the manufacturing of other products, such as asphalt. During 2004, 56.1% of the paint collected by Product Care was recycled in one of these ways.

Energy Recovery

Through the process of fuel blending, a portion of the paint and all of the flammables and gasoline collected by Product Care during the Reporting Period was used as an alternative energy source in applications such as incinerators and cement kilns. Of the paint collected in 2004, 37.5% was managed in this way, as well as 100% of the flammables and gasoline.

Treatment/Incineration/Landfill

No paint collected during the Reporting Period was disposed of in landfills. Due to contamination 0.2% of paint collected was incinerated. 100% of pesticides were incinerated as there is no recycling or reuse option. All incineration is conducted in licensed facilities.

Containers

All metal paint and gasoline containers were recycled as scrap metal. All 5 gallon size plastic paint pails and all plastic gasoline containers were recycled.

H. Final Treatment & Processing Facilities

Product Care only contracts with reputable service providers with a proven record of using established, approved and verifiable procedures for the final treatment and processing of residuals in compliance with all applicable environmental regulations.

I. Environmental Management System Accountability

Product Care utilizes a due diligence and control system for environmental risk management. Some of the tools used included:

- depot "good practices" guidelines for handling and safety requirements
- depot contractual obligations
- monthly depot checklist reports
- regular depot visits/inspections
- use of reputable, licensed transporters
- chain of custody - product tracking system
- environmental insurance and reserves

J. Annual Financial Statements

Product Care's audited financial statements from January 1, 2004 to December 31, 2004 are located here: www.productcare.org/reportpages

-----For more information see www.productcare.org